



Gerangamete Groundwater Management Area Local Management Plan

Version 1

April 2023

Version Control

Version	Change summary	Date
1	Removed from previous Catchment Statement and presented as a stand-alone Local Management Plan for Gerangamete GMA. Minor administrative updates included.	April 2023

Contents

Purpose of this document	3
Gerangamete GMA Local Management Plan	4
Objective of the Local Management Plan	4
Area description	4
Permissible Consumptive Volume	4
Water entitlements.....	5
Restrictions.....	5
Trading	5
Metering	6
New licences	6
Consultation	6

Purpose of this document

This Local Management Plan (LMP) documents the current management arrangements for the Gerangamete groundwater management area (GMA). The objective of the plan is to ensure the equitable sharing and long-term sustainability of the groundwater resource.

The plan aims to clearly and simply explain how groundwater is managed by Southern Rural Water (SRW) in the plan area. The LMP includes information on the boundaries and depth of the management area, the cap on total annual groundwater licensed volume, how groundwater licences can be accessed (via a trade of entitlement), and the metering requirements.

The LMP will be reviewed on an as needs basis. The aim of future reviews will be to improve existing management and where possible to make management less complex, while ensuring equitable sharing and long-term sustainability of the resource.



SIMON WILKINSON

General Manager Service Delivery

12 April 2023

Gerangamete GMA Local Management Plan

Objective of the Local Management Plan

The objective of the LMP is to make sure that the groundwater resources in the Gerangamete Groundwater Management Area (GMA) are managed in an equitable and sustainable manner.

Area description

Gerangamete GMA is shown below. The plan is lodged with the Central Plan Office, reference number LEGL./04-135.

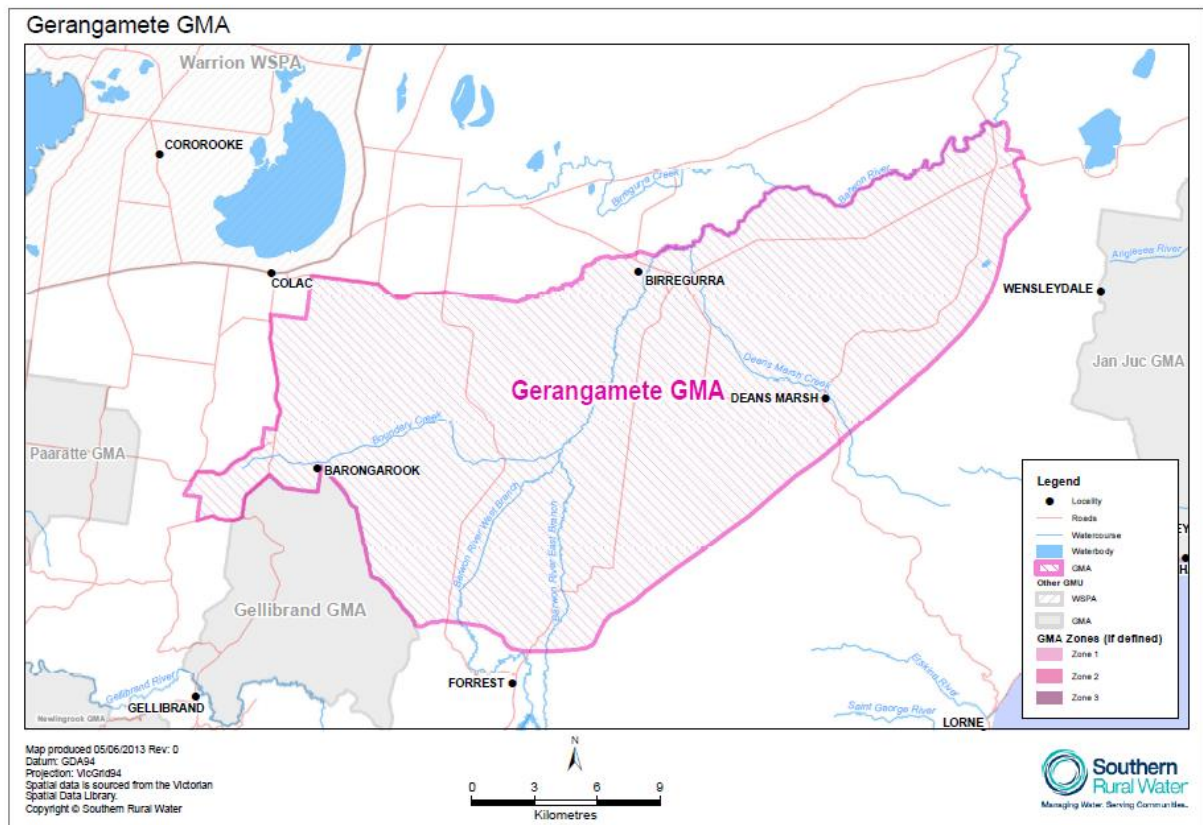


Figure 1: Map of Gerangamete Groundwater Management Area

Permissible Consumptive Volume

A Permissible Consumptive Volume (PCV) currently applies to the Gerangamete GMA. The PCV is a cap on the amount of groundwater allocated in this management unit. The PCV for Gerangamete GMA is 239 ML/year.

The PCV applies to the area covered in Figure 1, for all formations below the surface.

Water entitlements

The extraction of groundwater for purposes other than domestic and stock use is authorised under a groundwater licence. There are three allocations in the Gerangamete GMA totalling 239 ML¹, which forms the basis for the PCV.

The historic Barwon Water licences were not renewed and have now expired.

People have rights to take groundwater for domestic and stock use without a groundwater licence.

Restrictions

The PCV determines the maximum volume of water that can be extracted from the Gerangamete GMA; however, the Local Management Plan does not place specific restrictions on taking groundwater.

If necessary, SRW is able to temporarily qualify rights to groundwater under section 33AAA of the *Water Act 1989* if a water shortage occurs - for example, if regional drawdown is affecting access to groundwater by users.

Groundwater licences also allow SRW to restrict extraction if required - for example, to minimise the effect of extraction from specific sites if there is a significant impact on nearby users or the aquifer. If restrictions are necessary, SRW will notify licence holders in advance.

Trading

In considering an application to transfer a licence temporarily or permanently, SRW must thoroughly assess the application. An application to transfer a licence is not automatically approved. In deciding whether or not to approve an application, SRW must consider section 40 of the Act, including:

- Availability of water now and in the future;
- Adverse effects that an approval may have on existing users, on waterways and aquifers and on the environment; and
- Existing and projected water quality in the GMA.

When an application is made, SRW will assess whether groundwater extractions at the new site will cause adverse and material interference to any nearby groundwater user. If interference is likely SRW may set transfer conditions to minimise interference, or it may refuse the application. Approval of an application to transfer may be subject to technical assessments to determine bore interference and impact on surface water bodies.

In the Gerangamete GMA:

- Permanent transfers are permitted
- Temporary transfers are permitted for a period of up to five years

¹ As of July 2020

Metering

SRW meters water use by new and existing groundwater users with an annual volume greater than 20ML². This allows SRW to keep track of how much water is being used and enables licence holders to keep within their allocated volume.

The meters are supplied by SRW, and the licence holder is responsible for paying the full cost of the meter and initial installation. The meter remains the property of SRW and SRW is responsible for maintenance and replacement.

Meters are read at least twice per year.

New licences

New groundwater licences (additional entitlement) will not be issued in the Gerangamete GMA because this may adversely impact on the sustainability of the groundwater resource, however temporary or permanent trade of existing entitlement is allowed.

Consultation

SRW will consult with licence holders and relevant stakeholders before making changes to the LMP, other than administrative changes or clarifications.

The LMP will be reviewed on an as needs basis.

² Except where metering is physically impractical, or where it is high risk from a health and safety perspective